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Author(s): Smith, Morag Kristin

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Introduction to Nuclear Arms Control (the view from August, 2019)

Morag Smith

NEN-3 International Threat Reduction

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Original presentation - 2017

- *2018 Nuclear Posture Review*
- *INF Treaty (1987-2019)*
- *New START (2010-?)*
- *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017)*

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2018 Nuclear Posture Review

- Cites deteriorating relationship with Russia and concerns about China
- “To address these types of challenges and preserve deterrence stability, the United States will enhance the flexibility and range of its tailored deterrence options.”

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INF

- State Department review in 2016 found “the cruise missile developed by Russia meets the INF Treaty definition of a ground-launched cruise missile with a range capability of 500 km to 5,500 km”
- Discussions with Russia on this issue started with the Obama Administration
- 2/2/19 – Official notice of US withdrawal
- 2/9/19 – Russian suspended participation
- 8/2/19 – Treaty lapsed

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New START (2010)

- May be renewed in 2020 for up to five years
- Unclear what Trump Administration is planning
- Currently, the last treaty limiting US-Russian nuclear weapons

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Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017)

- Effort within UN.
- 122 countries voted in favor
- The US and many other countries did not participate in the negotiations
- “France, the United Kingdom and the United States have not taken part in the negotiation of the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. We do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become party to it. Therefore, there will be no change in the legal obligations on our countries with respect to nuclear weapons. For example, we would not accept any claim that this treaty reflects or in any way contributes to the development of customary international law. “
- “A purported ban on nuclear weapons that does not address the security concerns that continue to make nuclear deterrence necessary cannot result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon and will not enhance any country’s security, nor international peace and security.”

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What happens next?



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